

Patrika

Chinmaya Mission Los Angeles

OCTOBER 2015

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**CHINMAYA MISSION
LOS ANGELES**

Vedanta, Wisdom, Spiritual Growth

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Over Thirty Years Of Service To Humanity



Upcoming Events

Diwali & Annakoot Celebrations	Nov 14	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
On A Quest @ UC Irvine	Nov 16	6:15 pm - 9:15 pm
Break the Bondage	Nov 16	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
by Swami Ishwarananda		
On A Quest @ Cal Poly Pomona	Nov 18	7:30 pm - 10:15 pm
Just for Seniors - For ages 55+	Nov 19	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
On A Quest @ UC Riverside	Nov 23	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Ramayana Inana Yagna	Dec 6-12	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
by Acharya Arun Gossai		
Stay Cool— Within and Without!	Dec 6	9:00 am - 10:15 am
by Acharya Arun Gossai		
Power of Now	Dec 13	9:00 am - 10:15 am
by Acharya Arun Gossai		
Valmiki Ramayana Discourse Series	Jan 11-15	6:30 am - 7:30 am
by Swami Ishwarananda		
Bhagavad Gita Discourse Series	Every Sunday	9:00 am - 10:15 am
by Swami Ishwarananda		
Bhaja Govindam Discourse Series	Every Sunday	9:00 am - 10:15 am
by Acharya Mahadevan		
Guided Vedic Chanting	Every Saturday	6:30 am - 7:30 am
by Swami Ishwarananda		

Thus Spake The Master

Operate from strength.
This inner strength comes from—
Sincere study
Regular abhyas
Firm conviction
Missionary zeal
&
Deep devotion to what you undertake to achieve.

- Swami Chinmayananda

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Words Of The Wise

When man works for himself, there is only the perspiration of labor without joy. When he works for a noble goal, he is inspired. When working for a noble goal, man derives tremendous strength from his chosen altar of dedication.

- Swami Tejomayananda

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THINK!

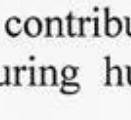
Beyond the names and forms of the world is the underlying essence - It is within you, yet without you!

- Swami Ishwarananda

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Message From Honorable Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi



सत्यमेव जयते

प्रधान मंत्री

Prime Minister

MESSAGE

I am happy to note the successful worldwide celebrations of Swami Chinmayananda's birth centenary, beginning with the release of commemorative coins in Delhi last May, which I was fortunate to be part of.

The Chinmaya Mission is contributing significantly towards nation-building and nurturing human values, through its activities.

On this occasion, I wish the Chinmaya Mission all success for its future endeavours.

(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi

3 November, 2015

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Yesudas Melts SoCal Audience With Melodies

- By Hema Ravikumar

FULLERTON, CA - The annual fundraiser program of Chinmaya Mission Los Angeles 'Sevanjali' saw Padmabhushan K. J. Yesudas clad in his trademark pristine white dhoti kurta ensemble enthralling a packed auditorium with a dazzling vocal repertoire of multi-lingual musical pieces. The audience assembled at the Plummer Auditorium here on Nov.1, were enthusiastically vocal in their appreciation.

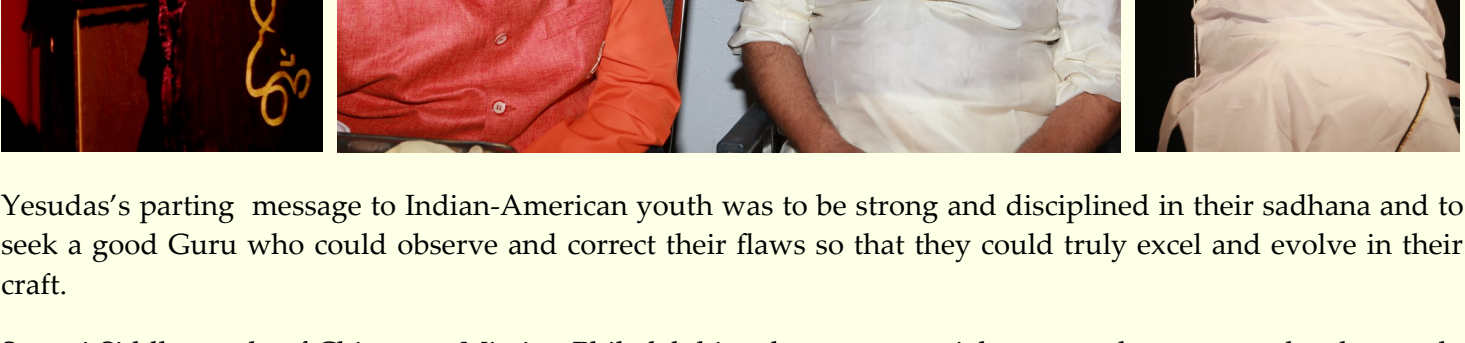
Swami Ishwarananda, head acharya of CMLA, speaking at the event which had been titled 'Shruti Layam', summed it up aptly when he said that Shruti is pleasant musical sound heard by the ears, but when the listener is transported and transformed completely by the music he listens to then Laya (dissolution) happens and the mind dissolves into a meditative space at the pinnacle of the experience. This is, he said, the ultimate feat and goal of great musicians such as Yesudas who convey that sort of rare transcendence through their art by generously sharing a glimpse of the Oneness they experience during the height of their performance.

Acharya Mahadev of CMLA echoed the theme of divinity of sound emphasizing that "in Vedanta, Shruti the constant drone of the Supreme is associated with the very basic background or substratum of the Universe and if we play our part like an actor in the stage of life in rhythm with the Consciousness we gain absorption or Layam in the Self."

Interpersing his music with endearing anecdotes about his musical and life journey, Dassetan meaning Brother Das, as Yesudas is known, established a strong bond with the audience from the get go. He spoke about his simple beginnings, his training with renowned Carnatic music Guru Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar, his connection to the Indian film industry music doyens such as Ravindra Jain and Salil Choudhary and reflected nostalgically on the process of singing in various languages over the years. He went on to humorously yet poignantly draw attention to the disparity of regional loyalties and differences. Yesudas repeatedly expressed his views about the common thread shared by all Indians and all religions and made a plea for all communities to work and function as one beyond differences saying, "I was born as a Christian, but feel close to Hinduism and to Allah - I just sing music from the heart without thinking about the religion and its differences. When I sing about Krishna or a Christ, for me they both simply come from the sound "Kr" Nothing is higher or lower or better than the other."

Yesudas began the program with the classic "Vallachi Vachi" and followed it up with a flawless rendering of the ever popular 'Vaatapi Ganapathim', from his Carnatic menu. Then it was time to move on to more adventurous improvisational territory straddling different genres and languages. Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, Bengali, Kannada, Telugu, he navigated them all resoundingly and the crowd went wild in their enthusiastic response to their beloved singing idol who had delivered close to six decades of superb music from ornate temple settings to the silver screen.

Yesudas was accompanied by Krishna Parthasarathy from the Bay Area on violin, Santosh Chandru on ghatam, Vidwan T.S. Nandakumar on mridangam, and Mayuri Vasani, a past Chinmaya Mission balavihar student, on tanpura. His wife Prabha looking resplendent in a pink-red saree briefly ascended the stage to receive a token of honor and appreciation for being the pillar of support for her famous husband.



Yesudas's parting message to Indian-American youth was to be strong and disciplined in their sadhana and to seek a good Guru who could observe and correct their flaws so that they could truly excel and evolve in their craft.

Swami Siddhananda of Chinmaya Mission Philadelphia who was a special guest at the event spoke eloquently and performed a short inspired piece of his own composition based on Yesudas's "Jab deep jale".

CMLA's Foundation Committee Chair, the group that spearheaded the organization of the event, Dr. Shashi Acharya disclosed the financial fund raising goals and successes of the organization while whole heartedly praising the incredible volunteers at CMLA.

The evening was excellently emceed by Nimmi Raghunathan.



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CMLA's Garba Evening Is A Colorful One

As each year, the CMLA Navratri celebration on Oct. 17, was a huge success. The University High School gym in Irvine drew over 1,300 people from the local and surrounding communities. The program began with a puja by Swami Ishwarananda to invoke the blessings of Goddess Durga. Shortly after the puja, musician Jaysree Gohil and her party sang traditional garba songs as people danced with family and friends. The dandiya-raas after the Durga arati was also equally well participated in by all present.

Everytime the dancers wanted a break, they made a beeline to the snack stalls which were pizza, nachos, papdi ghatia, jalebi, samosas and khaman dhokla. The event would not have been possible without the dedicated energy and support of CMLA volunteers.



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SGBV Celebrates Navratri

San Gabriel BV held a beautiful Saraswati puja on the occasion of Navratri. Acharya Mahadevanji explained the symbolism behind the celebration of the festival and led the puja. There was chanting of shlokas and the singing of bhajans in praise of the divine mother.

Families also joyously participated in the Navratri Golu.



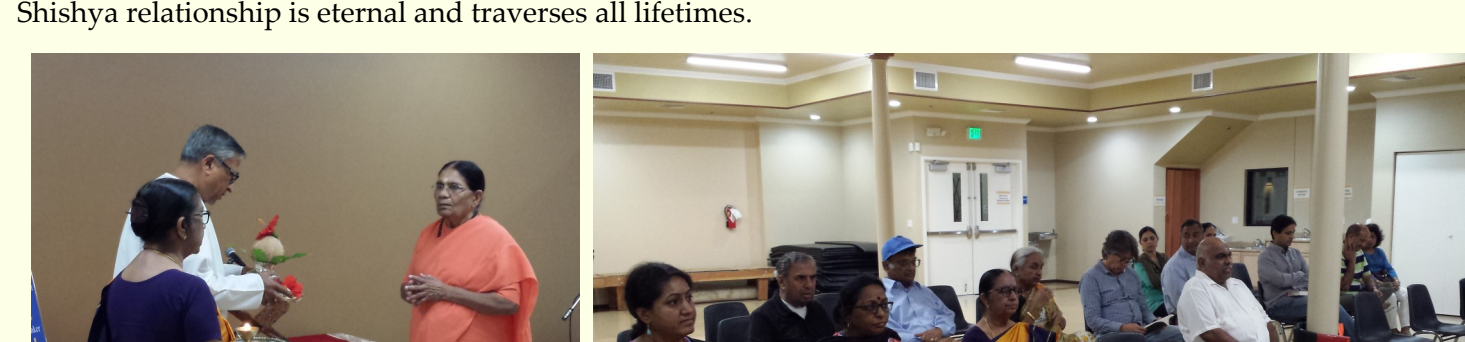
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CMLA Enjoys Swamini Gangananda's Talks

Swamini Gangananda conducted a week long Bhagavad Gita Yagna at Chinmaya Rameshwaram from Oct. 8-14. While explaining the importance of Chapter 13, she remarked that this chapter marks the beginning of the discourse where the Lord begins to explain the *jiva-brahma aikyam*. For a *jiva* to attain divinity, he has to imbibe the qualities of the Divine and learn to live those values, she explained.

Amritabindu Upanishad was the topic of the morning talks, where eager *sadhakas* learned to equip the mind, which is currently the cause of bondage with the necessary tools and framework which will take it to its final goal viz, liberation. The talks were well-attended and enjoyed by all.

On Sunday, during the Balavihar Swami, Amma spoke of the only female student at Sandeepany and her experiences with Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda. "Gurudev's laughter was like a lion's roar! I can still hear his laughter ringing in my ears," she said. She spoke with love and devotion about Gurudev, and how well he took care of his students. She also explained that a Guru is irreplaceable in a student's life and the Guru-Shishya relationship is eternal and traverses all lifetimes.



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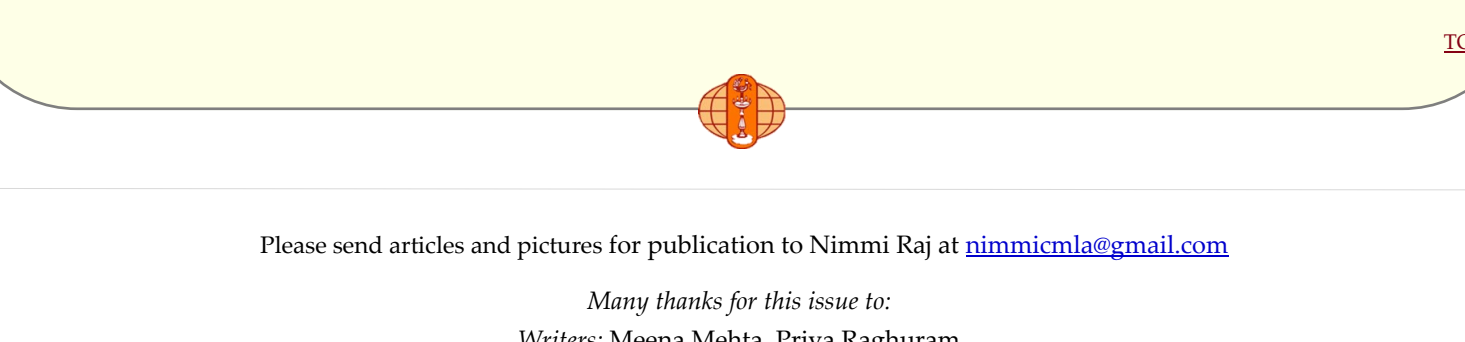
'Fire and Ash' — Aesthetic and Intellectual

Over 200 people stood as one, giving a standing ovation to the artistes on stage at Chinmaya Kalanjali's concluding program of the 2015 season.

Gowri Narayan's 'Fire and Ash' staged at Rameshwaram, brought together several art forms at once on stage, delighting the discerning audience. Based on Lord Shiva, the show succeeded in making him relevant to today's times without taking away the grandeur of the Lord or his divine status. The brilliant writer and narrator Narayan showed flawless execution bringing forth environmental issues, in particular.

The other two performers also charmed their way through the performance. Savita Narasimhan's effortless singing in multiple languages was laudable. Her digital paintings were another aspect that sought to enhance the story telling. The dancer, Anjana Anand's performance, especially to the powerful 'Anbe Sivam' was noteworthy.

Among SoCal's rasikas and noteworthy performers in the audience, was also Padmeshri Dr. Sunil Kothari from India, well known scholar of dance.



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